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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];  
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KNOWLES, Heather** [US/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **BYRON, Jacquelyn** [US/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.**; c/o John F. Vodopia, P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

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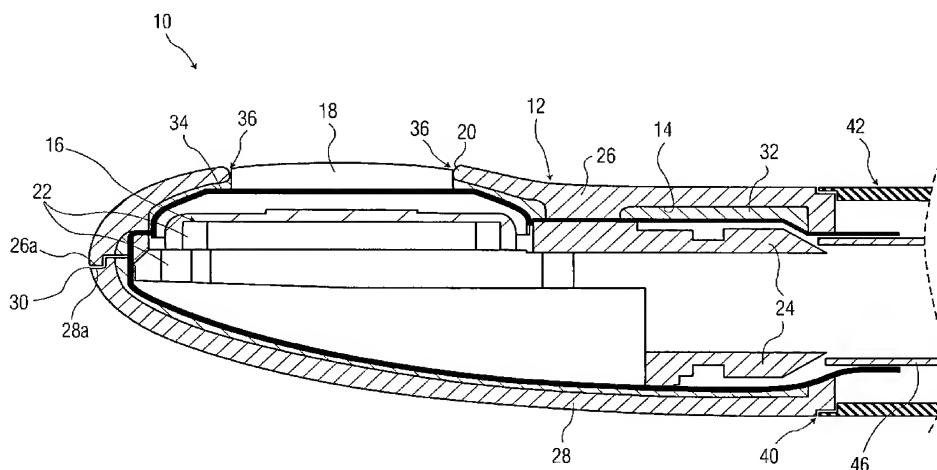
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **ULTRASOUND PROBES WITH IMPROVED ELECTRICAL ISOLATION**



(57) **Abstract:** Ultrasound probe (10) with improved electrical isolation including a housing (12), a sensor assembly (16) arranged in the housing (12) and including electrically conductive parts (22) which transmit, receive and process waves and an acoustic matching layer (34, 44) arranged in the housing (12) to electrically isolate the electrically conductive parts (22) from the housing (12). The matching layer (34, 44) serves as a barrier between the electrically conductive parts (22) and seams (30, 36, 40) formed between two parts (26, 28) of the housing (12) and/or between the housing (12) and another component connected thereto, e.g., an acoustic window (18) or a connection member (42) arranged at a rear of the housing (12). The invention thus increases the safety of the probe (10) in that it substantially reduces the risk to patients of an electrical shock. By using the matching layer (34, 44) to provide electrical isolation, the acoustics of the sensor assembly (16) are not interfered with, i.e., the waves being transmitted and received by the sensor assembly (16) are influenced in a desired manner.



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— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

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